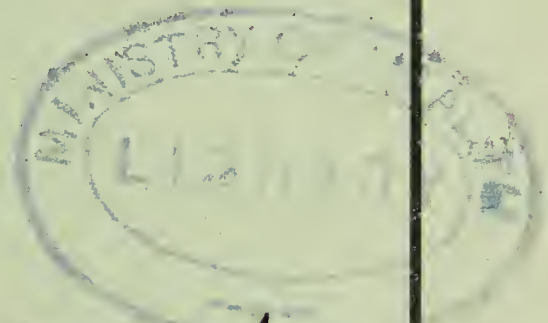


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RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

A



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December

1953

A



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RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1 9 5 3

by

**E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
RUNCORN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS**

OFFICIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

- (1) Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts**
- (2) Divisional Medical Officer of Health
Divisional School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)**

**E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.
(Office Tel. No.: Frodsham 2186
Home Tel. No.: Great Mollington 66)**

Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors :

**D. BOOTHMAN, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector
National Certificate in Building
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)
Offices: Public Health Department, Castle Park, Frodsham.
Tel. No.: Frodsham 2186
Sub-Office, 22 Orchard Street, Stockton Heath.
Tel. No.: Stockton Heath 1024
Home Tel. No.: Frodsham 2219**

**G. F. SIXSMITH, Additional Sanitary Inspector
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)
Housing Management Certificate (The Institute of Housing)
Diploma in General Hygiene Advanced (R.I.P.H. & H.)
Home Tel. No.: Warrington 2824**

Clerk/Pupil Sanitary Inspectors :

**P. MOSS, resigned February, 1953
E. H. PEET
G. W. BATE, appointed January, 1953**

Clerical Duties :

MISS D. YOUD

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APPENDIX “B”—Annual Report, 1953—Divisional Health (Runcorn Division).

AN APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY TO VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES, IS AGAIN MADE TO MAKE FULL USE OF THIS REPORT; DISCUSSION GROUPS, ETC., IN HEALTH EDUCATION SHOULD BE ARRANGED FOR IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO APPENDIX A

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN, 1953

From 25th May, 1953

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR ALFRED JONES, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR Mrs KATHLEEN I. DEWES

Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR Mrs E. STANSFIELD, J.P., *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR C. WILKINSON; *Vice-Chairman*

Councillor W. H. CAPPER, J.P. Councillor J. HUNT

„ D. L. DAVIES „ J. W. KIRKHAM

„ H. R. DONE „ R. E. PAYTON, C.C.

„ H. HELSBY „ H. PEAKE, J.P., C.C.

„ H. HILL „ G. S. WALLWORTH

Councillor E. G. WHITE

and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

OFFICERS:

Solicitor/Clerk of the Council:

Mr. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham

Engineer and Surveyor:

Mr. B. PRESTON, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.,
Frodsham

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year-ending 31st December, 1953.

Population: There is an increase of 280 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 35,520 in 1952 to 35,800 in 1953.

Birth Rate: The birth rate per thousand of the population showed a slight decrease, being 13.63 in 1953 by comparison of 13.86 in 1952. The rate of England and Wales was 15.5 per thousand.

Death rate: The death rate for 1953 was 10.28 per thousand of the population compared with 11.38 in 1952. The rates for England and Wales were 11.4 in 1953 and 11.3 in 1952. The total number of deaths in the Runcorn Rural District in 1953 was 368 compared with 404 in 1952.

Infantile Mortality Rate: The death rate of all infants under one year of age per thousand live births was 22.54, as compared with 20.32 in 1952. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 26.8 in 1953.

Incidence of Infectious Disease: The incidence of infectious disease was greater than the previous year. 560 cases were notified as compared with 527 during 1952. The increase was due in the main to the increase in measles and whooping cough notifications, the latter can be prevented by special injections of Suspended Whooping Cough Vaccine, which can be obtained *free of charge* through the patient's own Doctor. The injections should be carried out at the age of about 3 months.

“THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE”

I feel that the greatest importance should be attached to the above, and herewith indicate in “APPENDIX A” for the guidance of all concerned a resumé of the preventive measures which I recommend should be taken, by all concerned.

Housing: The number of applications for Council houses was 980 at the end of the year under review. The number of houses owned by the Council at end of the year was 970; total of new houses erected by the Council during the year was 131. The total number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1953 was 10,991.

Now that many Council houses have been built, a scheme for the demolition or closure of unfit houses is very necessary; a short term policy for urgent cases with a long term policy to follow, fitting as required into a proper Town and Country Planning Scheme. Parents with children (especially very young ones) should have first priority.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area: The details under this section have been compiled by Mr D. Boothman, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT — DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year ending 31st December, 1953:

(by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my local Council) — this Report is included as an Appendix “B” and attached hereto.

The co-operation and help of all concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health department and other departments has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties—without the “Team Spirit” it would be difficult to obtain results.

Yours obediently,
E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	45,765
(b)	Estimated population (Registrar-General)	....	....			35,580
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end 1953) according to the Rate Books	....	....	....	....	10,991
(d)	Rateable value of the District (end 1953)	....	....			£226,803
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.)	Net				£918
(f)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	.78
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	3.26

Social Conditions

Agriculture and dairy farming are the chief industries of the district; other industries are tanneries, electric cable, electric fittings and steel tube works, flour mills and jam works. Sand quarrying is being carried on in the district, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

Unemployment.—Exact statistics are not available for this area as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour related to the areas served by such offices and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment, however, was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district.

Children's Homes.—There is a National Children's Home at Frodsham (195 children), one open-air Convalescent School for Jewish Children at Norley.

VITAL STATISTICS

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	....	....	465	214	251
Illegitimate	....	....	23	15	8
			488	229	259
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....				13.63

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	....	....	6	3	3
Illegitimate	....	....	0	0	0
			6	3	3

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 total (Live and Still births): 12.15.

Deaths 368 207 161

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.28

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

No. 30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion..... Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births (11 deaths) Death Rate 22.54

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 21.50

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 43.48

Particulars of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality during the year which has received or required comment

The causes of the highest mortality were:

Cancer 60 (*Vide* Registrar-General)

Heart Disease 48 „

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of e.g., Rheumatism in childhood—this is being further investigated under the auspices of the Ministry of Health (lack of vitamin C, gland deficiency, etc.).

For further remarks on Cancer see page 36 (i.e., further research, early treatment, etc.).

COMPARISON RATES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>
1943	33,000	15.7	11.5	46.5
1944	33,000	18.24	10.55	34.54
1945	31,710	15.5	11.07	32.58
1946	32,760	16.9	11.69	32.43
1947	32,930	16.85	11.93	48.6
1948	34,230	15.37	11.08	36.13
1949	34,550	11.75	11.92	27.66
1950	35,580	13.91	10.72	20.20
1951	35,510	13.83	13.89	48.88
1952	35,520	13.86	11.38	20.32
1953	35,800	13.63	10.28	22.54

(Population figures for 1943-1944, estimate only.)

A table on page 33 gives the Birth Rate, Death Rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1953 and comparisons with England and Wales, London and other great and smaller towns.

There were 257 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
From 65–69	Number of Deaths	....	21	15	36
„ 70–79	„ „ „	....	74	54	128
„ 80–89	„ „ „	....	36	41	77
„ 90–99	„ „ „	....	7	9	16

Summary of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1 (a)	Prematurity	....	....	....	Male aged 3 hours
1 (a)	Broncho-pneumonia	....	....	....	Male aged 6 months
1 (a)	Acute Gastro-enteritis	....	....	....	Male aged 2 months
1 (a)	Pulmonary Atelectasis	....	....	....	Female aged 1 day
1 (a)	Prematurity, weight 3 lbs 12 ozs.	....	....	....	Male aged 1 day
1 (a)	Intestinal obstruction	(b) Hersch-			
	sprung's disease	(2) Operation sig-			
	moidectomy	....	....	....	Male aged 1 week
1 (a)	Prematurity	....	....	....	Male aged 1 day
1 (a)	Prematurity	....	....	....	Male aged 10 hours
1 (a)	Prematurity	....	....	....	Female aged 2 hours
1 (a)	Cardiac failure	(b) Myocarditis	....	....	Male aged 6 months
1 (a)	Congenital Heart Disease	(b) Ate-			
	lectasis	....	....	....	Female aged 5 days

Prevention of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality—Children

Treatment in a General Hospital or an Infectious Disease Hospital, etc., is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit, and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in Hospital or Nursing Homes. District Nurses assist in nursing at home (via the patient's own doctor).

The above is in addition to Health Education, Welfare Schemes and Clinics, etc.

SECTION B GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers

The names and qualifications, districts, addresses and telephone numbers are given at the beginning of the Report.

2. Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. The Institute can supply serum for cases of Anthrax *in emergency*.

With the facilities given by the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, and the Public Health Laboratories at Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmaries, also various General Hospital Laboratories, all concerned will now be able to make fuller arrangements for pathological overhauls *so essential* in certain cases. It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of infectious disease and disease generally (e.g., by pathological overhauls).

Milk is sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

V.D. specimens are sent to the laboratories mentioned above, as required.

SECTION C

1. Water

(i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, with the exception of isolated farms and houses not on a mains supply.

(ii) Mains supplies and results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations are as follows. Parishes refer to the main areas; outlying portions of parishes may be connected to other mains.

Alvanley and Helsby—by the Council from Helsby Wells.

Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Preston Brook and Sutton—by the Council from Liverpool (Vyrnwy) bulk supplies.

Frodsham, Manley, Antrobus and Whitley—by the Council from Warrington Corporation bulk supplies.

Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Walton, Appleton, Stretton, Moore, Daresbury—by Warrington Corporation.

Halton and Clifton—by Runcorn and District Water Board.

Aston and Norton—by private estate mains, the bulk supply being Liverpool (Vyrnwy).

Budworth—by the Council from Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board bulk supplies.

<i>Chemical Analyses</i>	<i>Helsby Well (no treatment) to Albanley, Helsby</i>	<i>Warrington Harrol Edge to Frodsham, Manley,</i>	<i>Liverpool Vyrnwy to Aston, Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Norton, Preston Brook, Sutton</i>	<i>Runcorn and District Water Board to Halton</i>	<i>Warrington Vyrnwy mixed to Stockton Heath Area and most other Parishes</i>	<i>Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board to Budworth Village and Ball Lane, Kingsley</i>
Date	22.9.53	15.11.50	15.5.50	15.11.50	20.3.51	6.3.51
Appearance	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and slight yellow	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction	pH 7.75	pH 7.0	pH 6.3	pH 6.4	pH 7.0	pH 7.1
<i>Parts per million</i>						
Total solids	299	188	38	50	277	286
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.005
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5	2.25	0.00	0.00	5.25	4.8
Chlorides as Cl.	44	30	10	9	29	24
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.16	0.06	2.48	3.03	0.03	0.16
Total hardness	205	130	25	30	140	170
Temporary hardness	185	96	6	12	100	104
Permanent hardness	20	34	19	18	40	66
Alkalinity as CaCo ₃	185	96	6	12	100	104
Free chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bacteriological Examination:—						
Date	2.11.53	15.9.53	16.3.53	15.9.53	16.3.53	7.12.53
Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
% of above faecal coli	—	—	—	—	—	—
Report	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Analyst's Opinion

Helsby 22.9.53—The chemical analysis indicates water satisfactory organic purity.

Warrington Harrol Edge 15.11.50.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory and of great organic purity.

Liverpool Vyrnwy 15.5.50.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Runcorn and District Water Board 15.11.50.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Vyrnwy mixed 20.3.51 — The water is of a high degree of organic purity.

Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board 6.3.51.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

(iii) Private water supplies are bacteriologically examined at least once per year. Where, as a result of such sampling, the supplies have been established as unsatisfactory, Notices advising that the water be boiled or chlorinated before drinking, dietetic and dairy purposes are sent and repeated quarterly to the owners and occupiers.

Where farms and farm cottages are concerned, the owners are strongly advised to obtain a mains supply with the assistance of the Cheshire Agricultural Committee under the Agricultural (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1944, Sec. 5.

Certain mains extensions were carried out:

1. Frodsham — Renewal of part of main, Volunteer Street to Union Chapel.

2. Other extensions concerned with new Housing Sites.

Two Milk Producing Farms and four dwelling houses were provided with mains supplies in the year.

(iv)

Parish	(a) Public Water Mains				(b) Private Supplies					
	Direct to house		Standpipes		Private Water Mains		Wells and Springs			
							Good Quality		Suspicious or unsatisfactory Quality	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Alvanley.....	85	273	2	5	—	—	2	6	2	6
Antrobus	221	676	1	5	—	—	—	—	4	12
Appleton	1069	3055	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—
Aston	43	126	2	4	27	87	—	—	—	—
Budworth (Great).....	118	357	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daresbury	72	234	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	3
Dutton	95	404	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Frodsham	1598	5177	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	13
Grappenhall	1743	5759	—	—	—	—	4	12	—	—
Halton	449	1622	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatton	96	313	—	—	—	—	2	6	2	6
Helsby	848	2778	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingsley	332	1279	19	50	—	—	2	6	8	22
Manley	143	629	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Moore	168	535	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norley	282	955	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	5
Norton	16	59	—	—	25	81	—	—	—	—
Preston Brook.....	111	333	—	—	1	4	—	—	10	35
Stockton Heath.....	2311	7401	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton	143	463	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Sutton	229	684	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walton	510	1714	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Whitley	176	563	5	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10858	35389	30	82	53	172	17	48	33	109

(2) Drainage and Sewage

Sutton — All properties on the line of the new sewer are connected to it. There remain 14 closet conversions to be carried out.

Kingsley and Norley — A draft scheme was submitted to the Ministry which now awaits a local investigation.

Frodsham — Hares' Lane Pumping Station, a draft scheme is in the course of preparation for submission to the Ministry.

Stockton Heath — A scheme to overcome flooding received approval and work commenced in August, 1953.

Other matters requiring attention in the future are:—

1. Helsby — new intercepting sewer and sewage disposal works extensions.

2. Great Budworth — sewers and sewage disposal works.
3. Stretton — sewage disposal improvements.
4. Acton Grange — works enlargements.
5. Moore — sewage disposal improvements.

When septic tanks are installed it is important that *adequate filtration or subsoil irrigation* is provided to prevent pollution of watercourses and ditches. *In addition, the septic tanks should be maintained and desludged at regular intervals.* Many inspections have been carried out in connection with existing installations and in giving advice on new proposed works.

Seven drainage systems of existing properties were connected to public sewers.

3. Rivers and Streams

Pollution of ditches and streams remains a problem owing to the erection of new houses, improved sanitary appliances to existing houses and improved milk and dairy technique in parishes without sewers. Private owners are advised on the best type of septic tanks and filters for their property. Where such properties are in groups, the only final satisfactory solution is the provision of a sewer and sewage disposal works. Liquor from cowsheds presents a particularly difficult problem where it is not collected and returned to the land as manure.

A cesspool emptying vehicle is used for desludging septic and settling tanks on both Council and Private property. It is available 1½ days per week, the other days being employed in collecting nightsoil.

For private work the Council charge 10/- per hour with a minimum charge of 10/- and require the applicant to have the access covers of the tanks loosened and opened up in readiness.

Where plans are submitted to the Engineer and Surveyor involving drainage systems not connected to a public Sewer, the observations of this department have been sought on the efficiency of the proposed drainage disposal.

Pretreated effluents from two tanneries at Grappenhall are received into the Council's sewer which has improved the condition of the stream previously receiving the drainage, some pollution still occurs occasionally owing to the failure of the tannery plant to deal with all the effluent in the settling tanks.

The pollution of the non tidal section of the Manchester Ship Canal continues, but probably owing to the lack of any continued period of warm weather during the year, no complaints were received.

(4) Closet Accommodation

Forty conversions to the water carriage system were carried out. Where this has been done voluntarily by the owners, the Council has, when requested, paid a grant up to £15 provided that where a public sewer is not available, the owners will at their own expense connect to a public sewer when it becomes available.

(5) Public Cleansing

This is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor under direct labour. Disposal is by tipping, *which should be "controlled."* To assist in achieving full controlled tipping, small tips which are used infrequently and which cannot be supervised continually, should be, where possible, discontinued.

The cesspool emptying vehicle is adapted for the collection of the contents of pail closets and enables the collection and disposal of the nightsoil to be carried out with the minimum of nuisance.

D.D.T. or Gammexane types of insecticide should be used on tips as and when required, especially in warm weather.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Inspectors' (outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926:—

Nature of Inspections		No. of Inspections	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts)	....	176	9	7
Dwelling Houses (No. of Inmates and queries re Council house applications)....	....	370	—	—
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	....	613	112	9

Defects in above:

(a) Roofs, gutters and rain-water pipes	—	95	8
(b) Sanitary fittings	—	17	1
(c) Other defects	—	90	1
Schools	26	2	—
Moveable Dwellings	181	6	—
Water Supplies (Samples)	57	—	—
(Other Inspections)	35	—	—
Closet Conversions	359	22	—
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	223	12	—
Sewer Connections	54	14	10
Sewers and Drains	470	47	4
Colour Tests	44	—	—
Ditches, Brooks	64	6	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal	57	1	—
Streets, Yards and Passages	17	1	—
Foul Accumulations	13	1	—
Tipping on Waste Land	40	3	—
Vermin (Rats and Mice)	219	21	—
(Insects)	39	1	—
Piggeries and keeping of animals	77	9	—
Dairies and Milk Retailers	17	1	—
Milk Samples	53	—	—
Factories and Workshops	41	5	—
Shops and Foodstores	143	12	—
Bakehouses	10	2	—
Meat and Food Inspection	87	—	—
Canal Boats	1	—	—
Zymotic Inquiries	46	—	—
Visits to Contacts and Schools	96	—	—
Mortuaries	13	—	—
Petrol Stores	102	—	—
Hutted Camps	31	—	—
Miscellaneous	88	—	—
Health (Divisional matters, etc.)	16	—	—
Interviews with Builders, Owners and Agents	212	—	—
Ice-Cream Samples	25	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	12	3	—
Soil Samples	29	—	—
TOTALS	4156	290	40

SHOPS

7. Shops Act, 1950, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

No. employing persons	....	....	....	....	....	128
No. employing members of own family only				....	....	195
						323

(8) Smoke Abatement

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying smokeless fuels *at a reasonable cost*, etc., for the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing the nuisance, in addition *proper stoking*.

Noxious odours were at times noted in the district arising from certain large industrial works outside the district, when the wind is in a certain direction, fortunately not the prevailing wind. The matter has been referred to H.M. Alkali Inspector (Factory Inspector).

A Conference was called between the works concerned and the representatives and officials of the Local Authorities.

Some improvement has been effected.

(9) Rats and Mice Destruction

The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as Rodent Officer—one full-time rodent operative is employed. The Council co-operates with the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee who carry out rodent destruction on agricultural premises.

Treatment was offered to industrial premises at a charge of cost of labour and materials. Some of these, schools, and two cooking depots, receive treatment as required on this basis—11 others preferred to enter into contracts as before. Dwelling houses receive free treatment unless the infestation is due to lack of hygiene or the unsatisfactory keeping of animals or poultry, in which case a charge is made. Warfarin with an oatmeal base was used with satisfactory results.

Some 668 properties were inspected and of these 306 were treated.

The Council has 17 tips, sewage outfalls and properties which receive treatment as required. The sewer systems in Appleton, Daresbury, Frodsham, Grappenhall, Halton, Hatton, Helsby, Moore, Stockton Heath, Sutton and Walton, were test baited and infestation was found in Hatton, Halton and Stockton Heath to a limited degree. The infested portions received two maintenance treatments.

(10) **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**
Home Office Form 572 (Revised)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	28	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	91	28	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	4	—	—
TOTAL	138	41	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>			<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. by H.M. Inspector Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	5	—	2

All factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose. Number of Outworkers—11, employed in the making of wearing apparel and curtains. No action taken during the year.

11. Swimming Baths

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

12. Moveable Dwellings

Close supervision was maintained on camping sites and individual moveable dwellings.

In addition to licences under the Public Health Act, moveable dwellings require approval under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which gives better control as regards amenity to the district than the Public Health Act. The Council have adopted the recommendations of the County Planning Officer on new camping sites which include the following:

“The use of the said property as a camping ground shall mean its use as pitches for:—

(i) tents covering an area not exceeding 100 sq. ft. each, or

(ii) caravans on wheels specially built for use as living accommodation and maintained in a fit state to be drawn or propelled on their own wheels on the public highway. No railway carriage, tram-car, omnibus body or other similar article, whether on wheels or not and howsoever adapted, shall be permitted to be stationed or erected on the said property.”

CAMPING SITES

Number of licences in operation, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269:—

	<i>Year of 1953</i>
(a) For Camping Sites	14
(b) For fixed type dwellings sited on above Camping Sites	8
(c) For other individual moveable dwellings	57
Estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season, 1953	523

13. Insect Pests

Two houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, successful eradication was carried out with D.D.T.

Two cases of body louse infestation were also dealt with.

Other infestations dealt with were ants, wasps' nests and cockroaches.

14. Schools

During the year 26 inspections (as allowed by the Public Health Act) of public elementary schools have been made. The water supply is good and adequate, but repairs and improvements are required at many schools. Certain urgent maintenance repairs were asked for and carried out. Automatic flushing of urinals is required in some cases, also attention to dusty, badly surfaced playgrounds; pail closets should be fly-proof.

The County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, has reported on schools (in and outside) direct to the Director of Education, C.C.C.

15. Mortuaries

The mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION D—HOUSING

1. New Houses brought into the Rate Book in 1953

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority	64
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons	131
TOTAL	195

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>New Houses erected 1953 Total per Parish</i>		<i>No. of inhabited houses in Rural District 31st Dec. 1953.</i>	
	<i>Private</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>		
Alvanley	—	6		91
Antrobus	2	—		226
Appleton	19	31		1071
Aston	—	—		72
Budworth (Great)	—	—		118
Daresbury	2	—		74
Dutton	1	—		96
Frodsham	8	28		1601
Grappenhall	10	—		1747
Halton	2	—		449

Hatton	....	....	....	....	—	8	100
Helsby	....	....	....	....	13	10	848
Kingsley	....	....	....	....	3	—	361
Manley	....	....	....	....	—	4	144
Moore	....	....	....	....	—	12	168
Norley	....	....	....	....	2	4	285
Norton	....	....	....	....	—	—	41
Preston Brook	....	....	....	....	—	—	122
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	1	—	2311
Stretton	....	....	....	....	—	14	145
Sutton	....	....	....	....	1	—	229
Walton	....	....	....	....	—	—	511
Whitley	....	....	....	....	—	14	181
TOTALS				....	64	131	10991

2. Housing

A start was made in dealing with some of the bad houses where these houses became vacant or the Council rehoused the tenants. Details are given in the table on the lines of the Annual Return to the Ministry, Form P 13 H.S.G.

It is hoped that the legislation now under consideration will make it possible to demolish or close more of the very bad houses and more important still, enable reasonable houses to be reconditioned.

It is noted on inspecting unfit houses, that many are occupied by old people who have no desire to move and may not be able to afford the rent of new Council houses.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Part A — Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936) — Nil

Part B — Houses not included in Clearance Areas

	Number of Houses	Persons displaced
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS		
(1) Housing Act, 1936		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	5	0
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners un- der Section 11, and still in force	9	29
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)....	0	0

(2) Housing Act, 1949

(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	0	0
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	0	0
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	0	0

Number of
Houses*

REPAIRS

Informal Action

- (4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts 25

Action under Statutory Powers

(5) Public Health Acts

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

(a) by owners 18

(b) by local authority in default of owners 23

(6) Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)

(a) by owners 3

(b) by local authority in default of owners 0

Note: *A defective house remedied more than once during the period should be included once only.

3. Emergency Accommodation

Further requisitioned properties have been released and now only 4 remain.

The converted ex-Army huts at Townfield Lane Camp, Frodsham and Red Brow Camp, Preston Brook, provide emergency accommodation for 18 family units.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

		1952	1953
(a)	i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	10	9
	ii. Number of families dwelling therein	14	17
	iii. Number of persons dwelling therein	77	61
(b)	i. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1	7
(c)	i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10	8
	ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	70	58
(d)	i. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	Nil

SECTION E INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk and Dairies

Numbers on the registers are:—

Dairies	....	....	....	4
Distributors	....	....	....	23
Dealers	....	....	....	10
Supplementary	....	....	....	10

Samples taken were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and comprise the following:—

	No. of samples	No. of samples unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue (keeping quality raw milks)	49	2*
Phosphatase (Heat Treated Pasteurised Milks)	34	—
Turbidity (Heat Treated Sterilised Milks)	5	—
Of these samples number biological examination for presence of Tubercle Bacilli	11	—
Number found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	—	—

* Necessary action was taken to remedy these

2. Food Premises in Area

Grocer	....	....	....	....	....	64
Grocer and General Stores	....	....	....	....	....	37
Greengrocer	....	....	....	....	....	15
Sweets....	....	....	....	....	....	30
Butcher	....	....	....	....	....	27
Chemist	....	....	....	....	....	7
Fish and Chips	....	....	....	....	....	9
Wet Fish	....	....	....	....	....	4
Tripe	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cooked Meats	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cafe	....	....	....	....	....	12
Cafe with Shop	....	....	....	....	....	12
Licensed premises with Catering	....	....	....	....	....	16
Confectioners }					....	
Baker }	....	....	....	....	....	17
						252

Number of Food premises registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

Ice-Cream —Sale only	....	....	....	....	69
Manufacture Hot Mix	....	....	....	....	3
Manufacture Cold Mix	....	....	....	....	3
TOTAL....					75
Preserved Foods —Jam Factory	....	....	....	....	1
Sausage and Cooked Meats					21
Meat Pies	....	....	....	....	10
Fish and Chips	....	....	....	....	9
TOTAL					41

117 Inspections were made at Registered premises.

No special educational activity was undertaken, such as, clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene, but advice is given as and when required in the course of inspections.

3. Ice-cream

The hygiene of premises and personnel was satisfactory. Manufacture is only on a small scale 3 by hot mix and 3 by cold mix. All other registrations are for sale only.

Samples were taken which were graded as follows:—

Ice-Cream—Grade 1	....	....	....	17
Grade 2	....	....	....	0
Grade 3	....	....	....	0
Grade 4	....	....	....	0
Ice Lollies—Satisfactory	....	....		8

4. Meat and Other Foods

The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

During the year, 87 visits were made in respect of Meat and Food Inspections.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

No slaughter houses were used regularly during the year 1953; animals being slaughtered in the adjoining Urban District of Runcorn.

Post-mortem examination of pigs occasionally slaughtered at farms under Ministry of Food Special Licences has been carried out as required.

The quantity of food condemned during the year was:—

						lbs.
Beef—home killed	....	....	....	....	....	356
Beef—imported	....	....	....	....	....	156
Pork	....	....	....	....	....	365
Mutton	....	....	....	....	....	25
Bacon	....	....	....	....	....	119
Canned Meat Products	....	....	....	....	....	132
Canned Fish Products	....	....	....	....	....	7
Canned Fruit Products	....	....	....	....	....	1363
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	89
Canned Milk	....	....	....	....	....	107
Ham—imported	....	....	....	....	....	309
Dried Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	32
Jam	....	....	....	....	....	15
Peanut Butter	....	....	....	....	....	12
Pickles	....	....	....	....	....	14
Cheese	....	....	....	....	....	10
TOTAL....						3111

Condemned Food Disposal

Meat supplied from Runcorn Abattoir is coloured with a green dye and returned to the Abattoir.

Other foods are similarly coloured where necessary and disposed of in the Council's Refuse Tips.

5. Adulteration, etc. Food and Drugs Adulteration Act

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1953.

Samples obtained during year ended 31st December, 1953.

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Basilicon Ointment	1	—
Bread Procea	1	—
Boric acid ointment	1	—
Borax	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	—
Coffee and Chicory	2	—
Coconut Desiccated	1	—
Cake	1	—
Chewing Gum	1	—
Custard Pies	1	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Cream Tinned	2	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—
Foot Paste	1	—
Fruit and Malt Loaf	1	—
Ginger Ground	1	—
Ice Lollies	3	—
Ice-Cream Mixture	1	—
Jelly, Table	1	—
Jam	3	—
Lemon Curd	2	—
Milk	45	3
Milk, Condensed	1	—
Milk, Evaporated	1	—
Menthol & Wintergreen cream	1	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Orange Squash	1	—
Orange Barley Water	1	—
Peas, Dried	1	—
Peel, Cut Mixed	1	—
Rum and Butter Spread	1	—
Rum	1	—
Sweets	3	—

Tomato Juice	....	....	....	1	—
Yeast Tablets	....	....	....	1	—
Vinegar, Malt	....	....	....	2	—
				90	3

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples

<i>Sample</i>		<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Milk (Channel Islands)	8.7% deficient in fat	Full particulars sent to Ministry of Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 8/48
2	Milk	16.6% deficient in fat	Retail sale of 2-½ pint bottles. Seller cautioned
3	Milk (Channel Islands)	7.5% deficient in fat	Full particulars sent to Ministry of Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 8/48

6. Shell-Fish (Molluscan)

There are no Shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the district. If Shell-fish, Mussels or Shrimps are eaten locally, they should be well cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

7. Watercress

Only that as grown on properly controlled beds with a pure water supply and labelled should be sold and bought, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles and Whooping Cough.

1. Immunisation and Vaccination

Whooping Cough vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age (approx. 3 months) the results so far have been very good. This can be obtained free of charge by the patient's own Doctor, which I strongly recommend.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

The *free scheme* is still available so that parents and guardians could have their children *properly* immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age (*preferably between the sixth and ninth months*) should be properly immunised against diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years' time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department (Divisional).

Propaganda on the above has been *continuously* carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, etc, but still some children are found to have not been immunised.

Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once:

"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation, Smallpox Vaccination, Inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

As already recommended (via the Press, etc.), children should be vaccinated against Smallpox soon after birth, given Whooping Cough vaccine when about 3 months old and immunised against Diphtheria at about 8 months old.

3. Care of the Blind

The welfare of Blind Persons was dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the provisions of the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies, up to 5th July, 1948, and after this the same care continued under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 (Divisional Health Committee, etc.).

4. Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children

This was dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc., up to 5th July, 1948; after this further developments were carried out under the appropriate Acts.

5. Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

6. Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government under the appropriate Acts have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own doctor.

7. Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1953

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1953:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Diagnosed</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
*Scarlet Fever	29	4	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal)	5	—	—
Measles	382	—	—
Whooping Cough	132	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—

* N.B. Scarlet Fever—Examination of contacts ? carriers (preventive measures and treatment of these):—

1. Attention to unhealthy throat and nose (e.g., operation for removal of unhealthy tonsils and adenoids and/or penicillin treatment).
2. Cleanliness (N.B., dust) in home, school, etc. (Frequent “spring-clean” and disinfection as required—playgrounds, etc. (*non-dusty*).)
3. Constant attention to *good* hygiene and sanitation *everywhere* by all concerned.

An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age groups is given below:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases at all ages</i>	<i>Un- der 1</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 and over</i>
Scarlet fever	29	—	—	1	2	2	15	5	—	4	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Influenzal)	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Measles ...	382	9	28	46	49	41	199	4	2	3	1	—	—
Whooping cough	132	7	14	15	15	19	61	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior polio- myelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningo- coccal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	560	17	43	62	67	62	276	10	4	10	3	3	3

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all general practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free)—in emergency at the Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital (the Matron). In addition it can be obtained at any general hospital. Supplies can also be obtained (in emergency) from any infectious disease hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case. (N.B.)

Stock held by hospitals or practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.

N.B. Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.

Swabs were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead—in addition, as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington, free of charge (*this applies to all examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health*).

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

8. Total Deaths, 1953

<i>Cause of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All Causes	....	....	....	....	....	207	161
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
4. Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	....	....	1	0
8. Measles	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	....	....	....	....	....	10	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	....	....	....	....	....	8	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	....	....	....	....	....	0	8
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	....	....	....	....	....	0	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	....	....	....	....	....	20	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	....	....	....	2	0
16. Diabetes	....	....	....	....	....	4	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	....	....	....	28	30
18. Coronary disease, angina	....	....	....	....	....	37	22
19. Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	2	6
20. Other heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	16	24
21. Other circulatory disease	....	....	....	....	....	11	8
22. Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
23. Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	6	2
24. Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	16	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	1	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	....	....	....	1	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	....	....	....	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	....	....	....	4	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	....	....	....	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	....	....	....	21	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	....	....	....	9	1
34. All other accidents	....	....	....	....	....	3	2
35. Suicide	....	....	....	....	....	3	0
36. Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	....	....	0	0

				Males	Females
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	....	....	8	3
	Legitimate	....	....	7	3
	Illegitimate	....	....	1	0
Live Births	Total	....	....	229	259
	Legitimate	....	....	214	251
	Illegitimate	....	....	15	8
Stillbirths	Total	....	....	3	3
	Legitimate	....	....	3	3
	Illegitimate	....	....	0	0

POPULATION.....35,800 (estimated mid-year Home Population)
 Comparability Factors.....Births 1.03; Deaths 0.94

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
 MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR
 CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1953**
 Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	Runcorn Rural District	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
<i>Rates per 1,000 home population</i>					
BIRTHS—					
Live births	13.63	15.50	17.00	15.70	17.50
Stillbirths	12.15	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
		22.40(a)	24.80(a)	21.40(a)	21.0(a)
DEATHS—					
All causes	10.28	11.40	12.20	11.30	12.50
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.06	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza	0.03	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polioencephalitis)	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.32	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	0.81	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough	3.69	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	10.67	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia	0.14	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polioencephalitis):					
Paralytic	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-paralytic	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.03	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.11	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(c)
<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>					
DEATHS—					
All causes under 1 year of age	22.54	26.80 (b)	30.80	24.30	24.80
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	2.05	1.10	1.30	0.90	1.10

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

<i>Intermediate List No. and Cause</i>		<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</i>	<i>Rates per million women aged 15-44</i>
A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	68	0.10	1
A116	Abortion with toxæmia	7	0.01	
	Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	166	0.24	
A117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	90	0.13	3
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	30	0.04	
A119	Abortion with sepsis	39	0.06	
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	4

9. Tuberculosis

No persons employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted:—

A properly balanced diet, in addition early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, *thorough* disinfection of homes when cases go to a sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liaison is kept with the Chest Physicians. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). The Mass X-ray Units are proving useful in detecting early cases of Tuberculosis, etc.

Medical officers in charge of industrial hygiene, etc., factory inspectors, form a valuable liaison in preventing and ascertaining the cause of tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc.). The Public Health Act, 1936 (section 287) proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and Sanitary Inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.

In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised); failing this, heat-treated in the home.

With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people, these, with heat-treatment of milk (e.g., pasteurisation, etc., or proper heat-treatment in the home), will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus but other germs causing disease.

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc.) of the house, clothing, etc., with a *thorough* "spring-clean" of the house when a case is admitted to a sanatorium or hospital, *is essential*. Isolation of contacts (*especially* children) is most essential and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets, extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when required, via the Divisional Health Department.

Particulars of the 28 new cases of tuberculosis and of the 2 deaths from the disease in the area during 1953:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-14	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-24	1	3 (2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-44	2 (1)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	9	15	3	1	1	1	—	—

2 Deaths were Notified Cases.

Figures in brackets relate to cases transferred from another district

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, also Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmary laboratories.

Tuberculosis cases on register. Comparative rates:—

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1944	—	65	53	37	47	202	
1945	31,710	71	53	32	41	197	6.21
1946	32,760	68	44	34	34	180	5.49
1947	32,930	60	42	29	32	163	4.95
1948	34,230	59	44	28	33	164	4.79
1949	34,550	62	37	31	34	164	4.74
1950	35,580	74	48	29	35	186	5.22
1951	35,510	79	55	25	34	193	5.43
1952	35,520	89	61	29	33	212	5.97
1953	35,800	93	67	27	30	217	6.06

10. Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

<i>AGE</i>				-30		30-50		50-70		<i>over</i>		<i>Total</i>
				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Pancreas				-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	4
Breast				-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	8
Genital Organs:												
Uterus				-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Prostate				-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	4
Liver				-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Lungs				-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	4
Bronchus				-	-	-	-	4	2	-	1	7
Remainder of Intestinal Tract:												
Colon				-	-	-	-	2	-	5	2	9
Stomach				-	-	2	-	6	1	2	1	12
Throat and Mouth				-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Caecum				-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cancer of all other sites				-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	4
Male Deaths				-	-	5	-	19	-	14	-	38
Female Deaths				-	-	-	1	-	12	-	9	22

The 60 deaths from cancer give a rate of 1.67 per 1,000 of population, or 16.31% of total number (368) deaths reported during year.

11. Cancer

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provision of an adequate cancer service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radiotherapeutic work in the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The areas of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR 1953

In accordance with Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, I beg to report as follows:—

One canal boat was inspected during the year 1953, at Astmoor. No contraventions were noted.

Several visits were made to the canals, but as reported in recent years road transport has superseded canal transport, as regards wharves in this district. A few boats continue to pass through the district.

Appendix A

IMPORTANT

THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) **CLEANLINESS.** (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.)

WHY? Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands and **clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

- (2) **DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.**

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to **cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) **RATS AND MICE:** For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Sanitary Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) **FOOD** should be **properly** heat treated; this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) **WATERCRESS** must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; **this with lettuce and fruits** without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condyl's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.

- (5) **DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK** must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.
WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g., over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.
- (6) **ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES** should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities—see instructions on bottles obtainable from most chemists. **Do not bathe in rivers, etc.**, which may be sewage polluted.
WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.
- (7) **CONSTIPATION.** This *must* be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own doctor.
WHY? If constipated foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.
- (8) **TO AVOID SPREADING “COLDS IN THE HEAD”, INFLUENZA, etc.** Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.
WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat. Disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.
- (9) **PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALL-POX, etc.** See that all (especially young children) have these as required.
WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.
- (10) **PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES, etc.** After any serious disease in a house, etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Sanitary Inspector), **also a thorough “spring-clean”**. The latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as influenza, measles and whooping cough.
WHY? By this disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.
- (11) **ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.** Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to hospital or nursed at home. This applies also to any sick animals (indoor or outdoor); if, in doubt call in a veterinary officer.
WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own doctor or Public Health Department (e.g., your Sanitary Inspector).
- (12) **DEFECTIVE TEETH.** See your dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every six months.
WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (13) **THE PREVENTIVE FOODS.** Eat some of these daily in your daily diet, which **must** be properly cooked, varied, and flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are:—

Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);
Cheese;
Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);
Animal fats, e.g., fish (especially herrings), and butter;
Margarine (vitaminised).

These all contain valuable substances called **vitamins** which are **essential** to good health. If in doubt ask, e.g., your Health Visitor or School Teacher, failing this your doctor.

When the above cannot be obtained, various additional vitamins, e.g., rose hip juice (vitamin C), vitamin C tablets, wheatgerm (vitamin B), cod and halibut liver oil (vitamins A and D) and other vitamins can be obtained from your own doctor if he agrees these are required. They can also be bought at the various chemists and shops. Without the proper amount of vitamins taken daily, the body is more open to attack by disease germs.

GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.
- (2) **ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.** Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by, e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them.*
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts
Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

1. Town Hall, Runcorn.
2. Castle Park, Frodsham.

N.B. PLEASE KEEP THIS PAMPHLET FOR EASY REFERENCE

Appendix "B"

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1953

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee
16th March, 1954

MEMBERS OF THE RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. STANSFIELD, J.P.

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. GOODALL

Representatives of Local Health Authority

County Councillor G. ASTBURY, J.P., Chairman, County Health Committee

A. WHITLEY, Vice-Chairman County Health Committee

Alderman W. A. GIBSON, J.P.

County Councillor A. E. Moors, J.P.

W. GITTINS, J.P.

County Councillor R. E. PAYTON

County Councillor H. HUGHES

Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives

Councillor D. L. DAVIES

H. HELSBY

” J. HUNT
,,

„ H. JACKSON

Councillor J. W. KIRKHAM

G. S. WALLWORTH

C. WILKINSON

„ G. WILLIAMS

Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives

Councillor E. C. BROOKER, J.P.

„ G. GOODIER

„ C. J. HELSBY

Councillor T. B. SHALLCROSS

„ H. A. THOMAS

„ A. WOOD,

Co-opted Members

Councillor W. H. STUBBS, Chester and District Hospital Management Committee

W. S. HUXTABLE, Runcorn Divisional Executive for Education

Dr. C. E. W. BOWER, Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester

Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committees

Mrs. W. HILL, Cheshire County Nursing Association

Mrs. C. EVANS

Mrs E. A. ROYLE

Mr J. D. WHITLEY

Officers

Clerk to the Committee: Mr. T. J. Lewis

Divisional Medical Officer: E. N. Hillman Gray, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1953**

INTRODUCTION

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part III of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

The report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

Child Welfare.—In connection with child welfare, in addition to the official welfare centres, day nursery, etc., available for all concerned, there are many representative voluntary organisations concerned with this very important subject—for further information enquiries should be made at the Divisional Health Department.

Family Planning Association (for marriage guidance, etc.—strongly recommended).—Some of the voluntary clinics in the north are, e.g.:—

†LIVERPOOL MOTHERS' WELFARE CLINIC, 9 Cambier Terrace, Liverpool, 1.—Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 2 to 3 p.m.

BRANCH CLINICS:—

*†Liverpool, 4.—294 Netherfield Road. Thursdays, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

*†Liverpool, 11.—Community Council Hall, Townsend Avenue. Monday, 2 to 3 p.m.

*†Liverpool, 21.—Linacre Methodist Mission, Linacre Road, Litherland. Fridays, 2 to 3 p.m.

At clinics marked * every patient is seen by a doctor.

At clinics marked † pre-marriage advice is given.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Town Hall, Runcorn
March, 1954

Your obedient Servant,
E. N. HILLMAN GRAY

SECTION 22

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are seven Welfare Centres in the Division, as follows:—

ANTROBUS — A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Parish Hall on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2.0 p.m.

FRODSHAM — The Child Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Tuesdays at the new Welfare Centre, Chapel-on-the-Rock, Frodsham, at 2.0 p.m.

The new premises were completed early in the year and officially opened on the 28th February, 1953, by D. Vosper, Esq., M.P. for Runcorn.

It is interesting to note that since the opening of this new clinic the number of Mothers attending has greatly increased—the number of new cases for the year being 89 compared with 53 for the previous year, and the total number of attendances for the year has increased from 738 for 1952 to 908 for 1953.

In addition to the Child Welfare Clinic, Ear, Nose and Throat, Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics are also held at this Centre during the month.

GRAPPENHALL — The Child Welfare Clinic for this district is held at the Methodist Sunday School each Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.

HELSEBY: The Child Welfare Centre for this district is held at the British Insulated Callender's Cables Works Recreation Room, Helsby, on alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

KINGSLEY — A Child Welfare Clinic for this area is held at the Hurst Chapel, Kingsley, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.0 p.m.

RUNCORN — The Child Welfare Clinic for this area is held at the new Child Welfare Centre, "Rydal Mount," Halton Road, Runcorn, each Wednesday at 10.0 a.m. and 2.0 p.m.

This Clinic has been well attended during the year and there has been an increase over the previous year of both new cases and total attendances. The new cases increased from 280 to 312, and the total attendances from 2,970 to 3,489.

An ante and post natal clinic is also held in “Rydal Mount,” each Thursday morning, and a Toddlers’ Clinic on the second Monday of the month.

In the adjoining Centre at “Aulderwood,” clinics are also held during the month for the following:

Minor Ailments, School, Dental, Orthopaedic, Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy and Ophthalmic.

STOCKTON HEATH — The Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Welfare Centre, 65, Whitefield Road, Stockton Heath, each Monday at 2.0 p.m.

Dental, Minor Ailments, Orthopaedic and Ophthalmic Clinics are also held at this Centre during the month.

Day Nursery

There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required. In addition, periodic inspections of all Welfare Centres and the Day Nursery were made by me, and any items requiring attention were referred to the Committee for their consideration.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres and for the Day Nursery, are given in the following tables:

A. MOTHERS' CLINICS					New Cases	Total Attendances
Ante-natal	....	....	....	....	201	735
Post-natal	....	....	....	....	11	11
Dental:—						
Pre-natal	....	....	....	....	5	8
Nursing mothers		....	....	....	8	24
Dentures supplied		....	....	....		8
B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS					New Cases	Total Attendances
(i) Infant welfare						
To 1 year	....	....	....	....	682	6732
1 to 2 years		....	....	....	18	1148
2 to 5 years		....	....	....	15	788
(ii) Specialist						
Ophthalmic (under 5)		....	....	....	21	46
Dental treatment (under 5)					37	40

B. (i) Welfare Centres

	<i>New Cases</i>			<i>Total Attendances</i>		
	0—1	1—2	2—5	0—1	1—2	2—5
Antrobus	12	1	2	142	103	125
Frodsham	82	4	3	670	128	110
Grappenhall....	83	1	—	1015	129	66
Helsby	28	2	1	420	101	159
Kingsley	33	2	1	265	65	29
Runcorn	298	7	7	2774	459	256
Stockton Heath	146	1	1	1446	163	43
TOTALS	682	18	15	6732	1148	788

B. (ii) Ophthalmic Clinics

						<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Frodsham ....	....	....	....	....	....	8	15
Runcorn ....	....	....	....	....	....	9	18
Stockton Heath ....	....	....	....	....	....	4	13
Totals	....	....	....	....	....	21	46

(iii) Day Nursery, Runcorn

						<i>Average No. Attending</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Age 0—2 years	....	....	....	....	....	7	1602
2—5 years	....	....	....	....	....	13	3225

SALE OF WELFARE FOODS — The Sale of Welfare Foods at the Antrobus, Kingsley and Runcorn Clinics is carried out through my office. During the year the total sales amounted to £771. The foods are sold at cost price plus 10%, and the income for the year amounted to £75.

At the Frodsham, Helsby, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Clinics, the sale of Welfare Foods is carried out by Voluntary Societies.

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for:—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

During the year two Midwives retired in the Runcorn area, and accommodation was required for the two new midwives appointed. An application was made by the Committee to the Runcorn Urban District Council for the tenancy of a property, and the Council rented to the Cheshire County Council a prefabricated bungalow No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, as accommodation for the two midwives in this area.

Apart from No. 10 Stanley Villas, Runcorn, which is owned by the County Council, for the accommodation of two County Midwives, all other County Midwives in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected No. 10 Stanley Villas, Runcorn, and repairs requiring attention were dealt with. Internal decoration at this property was carried out during the year.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but during the year all Health Visitors in the Division resided in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

The Health Vistors do valuable work under the National Health Act, and are essential "links in the chain" of the various sections of the Scheme.

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING

With the exception of the two District Nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County owned or rented property.

During the year the County Council were given notice to quit the rooms occupied by the District Nurse at "Hillcrest," Stretton. Numerous enquiries were made to find suitable accommodation in the Nurse's area, but without success. Application was made to the Runcorn Rural District Council for the allocation of a Council House to the County Council for the accommodation of this Nurse, and they allocated No. 3 Beverley Avenue, Appleton.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention.

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children

vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

A register is maintained of all births in the Division and if a record is not received that a child has been vaccinated at the age of 6 months, a letter is sent to the parents strongly advising them to have their child vaccinated. A similar course is also taken regarding immunisation when a child is one year of age, in the case of those in whom immunity has not been carried out at 6 — 9 months.

In addition, publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local press, and the health visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits.

Special immunisation sessions were held by me at schools in the Division, 152 children being given primary injections, and 630 reinforcing injections—total = 782.

The figures set out in the following tables, compiled from record cards received from medical practitioners, show the number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes, the figures for the previous year are also given.

There has been an increase during the year in the number of primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations.

In connection with the figures for primary immunisations, it will be noted that there is a big reduction in the number immunised separately against diphtheria and whooping cough, but a large increase in the number immunised against both diseases with the combined prophylactic.

The number immunised against diphtheria with the separate and combined prophylactic is 796 as against 784 last year, and the number immunised against whooping cough with separate and combined prophylactic is 450 as against 332 for the previous year.

Record cards have not been received for all children that have been vaccinated or immunised during the year, as has been proved when sending out the letters to parents mentioned above. In certain cases, replies have been received from parents stating that their child has been vaccinated or immunised.

Vaccination

				<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	....	....	1953	92	304	90	486
			1952	64	297	65	426
Re-vaccination	....		1953	—	108	18	126
			1952	—	109	11	120

Immunisation — Primary

				<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>School Clinics</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	....	....	1953	58	138	31	152	379
			1952	228	283	37	62	610
Whooping Cough		....	1953	7	29	7	—	43
			1952	121	31	6	—	158
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria			1953	93	300	24	—	417
			1952	36	135	3	—	174

Immunisations — Reinforcing Injections

Diphtheria	....	....	1953	20	77	13	630	740
			1952	15	171	14	491	691
Whooping Cough	....	....	1953	—	2	1	—	3
			1952	—	2	—	—	2
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria			1953	—	32	6	—	38
			1952	—	5	—	—	5

SECTION 27 — AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

The temporary scheme in force in the Division for this Service whereby arrangements were made with private firms throughout the Division to supply ambulances and cars to convey patients to hospitals, etc. was continued during the year.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding district and infectious disease cases throughout the area of the Division being admitted to the Warrington Isolation Hospital, were continued during the year.

For patients travelling a considerable distance, where practicable, arrangements were made for them to travel by rail, an ambulance being supplied for the conveyance of the patient from his/her home to the nearest railway station, and arrangements made with the distant authority for an ambulance to meet the train on arrival to convey the patient to his/her destination.

During the year three such journeys were arranged, one to Scotland and two to the London area.

The Ambulance and Transport Service Sub Committee met on numerous occasions to consider the present temporary service, and the formation of a permanent service for the Division, and inspected various sites.

The Committee recommended a site which they considered suitable for the erection thereon of a permanent ambulance station, and also recommended that the building of the station be commenced—this matter should be settled at an early date.

Details of journeys made during the year, as compared with the previous twelve months, are as follows:

Ambulance Journeys

	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Emergencies</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1953	949	1122	761	26691
1952	939	1126	695	29326
Car Journeys:				
1953	6731	8678	1547	152453
1952	6262	7814	1273	140614
Total all Journeys:				
1953	7680	9800	2308	179144
1952	7201	8940	1968	169940
Increase	379	860	340	9204

The majority of the patients in the Division requiring transport, attend Hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 23.33, compared with 23.59 for the previous year.

SECTION 28

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be rehoused, the question was taken up with the Housing Departments of the Urban and Rural District Council's, and I am pleased to be able to report that both Councils gave their sympathetic consideration to the re-housing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to re-house the families. Where the housing accommodation was adequate the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

The No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit visited the Runcorn area during the year, and although I have not yet received the report on the result of their visit, I understand that the sessions were well attended, especially those arranged at works.

The chest physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 39 B.C.G. injections were given.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1953, are as follows:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Total number of cases on register—					
1st January, 1953	156	118	46	46	366
31st December, 1953	165	130	45	43	383
(b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1953—					
Died	7	3	2	—	12
Left district	4	8	1	3	16
Recovered	2	—	1	1	4
	13	11	4	4	32
(c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1953—					
New cases	20	20	3	1	44
Transfers	2	3	—	—	5
Restored to register	—	—	—	—	—
	22	23	3	1	49

Care of the Aged

The care and after-care of old people living on their own has continued to be a most difficult problem, but in conjunction with General Practitioners and Health Visitors, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or home for the aged, or where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help and a visit by the District Nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help can and should be given by relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.

The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn does very good work in the care of old people and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and church organisations take an interest in old people's welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, has arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in the Runcorn and Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc., and assist them in any way possible.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

Loan of Nursing Equipment

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc., are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses, in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

A steady demand on this service has been made during the year.

Convalescent Home Treatment

The Committee has power to send persons in need of rest, not including nursing care, for this treatment. During the year, arrangements were made for two cases to be admitted to the Women's Convalescent Home, Llandudno, for a period of two weeks.

The patients are required to pay towards the cost of their stay in these Homes, according to the scale laid down by the County Council.

Handicapped Persons

A Register of Handicapped Persons is kept in my office and the patients are visited by the Health visitor to ascertain what assistance can be given to these persons.

Home Occupation

In a few cases where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the chest physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Some health visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

Health Education

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection.

Health matters on the wireless, Central Office of Information films, articles in the Press and magazines have aided health education, but the health visitors' personal visits and talks in the home are the most important means of spreading health education. The matron of the day nursery, Runcorn, and staff also greatly assist in this matter, in addition, doctors, midwives, district nurses and sanitary inspectors.

Cancer Research

Dr. Percy Stocks, on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, is conducting a detailed enquiry into cancer incidence and pathogenesis. The commencement was limited to the Liverpool Hospital Board Region of Cheshire (in addition to the corresponding area in Lancashire and North Wales Counties).

The enquiry commenced on the 1st July, 1952 and the Health Visitors are supplied with comprehensive enquiry forms for all deaths from these causes, of residents in the Division. In certain cases the Sanitary Inspectors are asked to take soil samples and complete report sheets on same.

From the commencement of the scheme to the 31st December, 1953, enquiries into 128 cases were made.

It is hoped, through these enquiries, to trace hitherto unsuspected sources of one of the greatest causes of death today.

SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HEALTH SERVICE

The number of domestic helps employed at the 31st December, 1953 was 27 part-time.

The demand on this service increased during the year, domestic helps being supplied to 146 cases as against 124 for the previous year, the increase being for confinement cases and cases of illness, as shown in the following table:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Confinement Cases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Cases</i>	<i>Aged Persons</i>	<i>Cases of Other Illness</i>
1953	33	2	68	43
1952	23	3	67	31

All applications for the services of domestic helps were carefully investigated. The health visitors visited all applicants to make full enquiries as to the need for help, and also to enquire whether it was possible for arrangements to be made for relatives to assist, or for

someone to live in, in the case of old people living alone, and only where neither of these arrangements were possible, and it was in the interests of the health of the patients that help was provided, were the services of a domestic help supplied.

All protracted cases were revisited at regular intervals to ascertain whether conditions were such that the services of a domestic help could be discontinued, or the number of hours per week the help was supplied reduced, but only in a very few cases was this possible, and in certain cases it was necessary to increase the number of hours per week help was supplied, due to the deterioration of the condition of the patient.

At the 31st December, 1953, there were 49 protracted cases remaining on the register, an increase of four on the previous year.

Most old people do not wish to enter Hospitals or Homes for the Aged, but to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and every effort is made with the aid of this service, and additional help from relatives or neighbours, visits by members of voluntary societies, and, when necessary, visits by the District Nurse, to make this possible. This action also helps to relieve the heavy demands on Hospital Authorities for this type of patient.

The service is not free to the patients but subject to a 'means test.' On the 1st July, 1953 the new County Council Scale of Assessment was brought into force.

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee, for their decision in the matter. During the year 21 cases were submitted to the Committee for consideration, and reductions made in nine cases.

